LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of determining by said processor for said program to be buffered is a predictive process based on a frequency measure of previously watched programs

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on specific programs watched.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on the genre of programs watched.

5. (Currently Amended)The method of claim 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on the recommendations of other users of the system.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted from Web Log entries.

7. (Currently Amended)The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted <u>by the processor </u>from one or more messages from an instant messaging service.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted <u>by the processor</u> from on-line reviews.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted <u>by the processor </u>from one or more email messages.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) <u>In a system for distributing content to users over channels, said system including a microprocessor and a buffer for selectively storing </u>content shown on a channel, a [[A]] method for buffering in a media ~~recorder~~ <u>presentation device</u>, the method comprising the steps of:

    Determining <u>by the microprocessor</u>, ~~within a timeslot,~~ <u>that</u> at least one channel of interest to a user <u>within a previous time slot</u>, wherein said channel has not been preselected by the user for recording <u>for said previous time slot</u>;

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buffering a portion of a program on said channel <u>during a</u> <u>corresponding later time slot for a first time period, said first time period</u> <u>being shorter than the duration of said time slot; and</u>

<u>detecting by said processor if a user starts watching said channel on</u> <u>said presentation device within said first time period.</u>

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12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said one channel is based on a list of channels most recently viewed by the user.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said one channel is a predictive process based on a frequency measure of channels watched within the same timeslot of a previous day.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel is a predictive process based on a frequency measure of channels watched within the same timeslot of a previous week.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel is a predictive process based on the genre of channels being watched and previously watched.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel is a predictive process based on recommendations.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the buffering of the portion of a program on said channel continues until a channel of higher interest is found, after which the buffering commences of a portion of a program on said channel of higher interest.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for predictive buffering of programs in a media recorder, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first signal containing a first set of television programs at a first receiving subsystem;

receiving a second signal containing a second set of television programs at a second receiving subsystem;

buffering at least a portion of one program from the first set of television programs while presenting or recording at least one program from the second set of television programs, wherein said buffering is initiated in a selected time slot and is terminated if a user does not watch start watching said one program within a predetermined interval.

20. (Original)The method of claim 19 wherein selection of the at least one program from the first set of television programs is based on a predictive process.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein selection of the at least one program from the first set of television programs is based on input from the user.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for buffering in a media recorder, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a program of interest to a user, said program having a first duration; and`

buffering said program for a second duration that is shorter than said first duration by starting said buffering at the beginning of a predetermined time slot and ending said buffering at the end of said second duration unless a user starts watching said program.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising sensing that the user has started to watch said program, and in response, continuing to buffer a current portion of the program as the user is watching a previously buffered portion of the program.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising identifying a second

program and buffering said second program at the end of said second duration.

25. (Currently Amended) A system for predictive buffering in a media recorder, the system comprising:

a predictive program selection subsystem, wherein the predictive program selection subsystem selects at least one program of interest to a user <u>without receiving a command from the user to buffer said program</u>;

a buffering subsystem that buffers a portion of said one program <u>when the program is not watched by a user, said buffering system being adapted to selectively terminate said buffering if a user does not start watching said program within a predetermined time period</u> .

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Amended) A system for predictive buffering in a media recorder, the system comprising:

a predictive channel selection subsystem that selects at least one channel of interest to a user, said channel showing a program having a program duration; and

a buffering subsystem that buffers said one channel for a buffering

duration shorter than said program duration if the user does not start watching said channel during said buffering duration.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a user identifying subsystem that identifies a watching user.

29 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 27 wherein said channel selection system selects said channel of interest from a time slot on a grid listing a plurality of time slots corresponding to channels during an extended time period.

30 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 30 wherein said grid covers a week.

31 (Previously Presented). The system of claim 27 wherein said one channel is selected based on what the viewer has been watching in the past.

32 (Currently amended). In a content distribution system in which programs are provided to various users, a method of time shifting a program A method of operating a personal video recorder comprising:

Using a processor to determine~~determining~~ if at least one program being distributed in the system is of interest to a user ~~of the personal video~~

recorder is available for recording, said one program having a program
duration;

starting to buffer said one program if said processor determines that said
program is of interest to a user;

monitoring a program presenting apparatus to determine if the user starts
watching said one program after said buffering has started during a
predetermined period shorter then said program duration; and

causing said program presenting apparatus to show said program from its
starting point if it is determined that the user has started watching the
program after said buffering has started.

terminating said buffering if said user fails to start watching said one program
within said predetermined period.

33 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 32 further comprising
receiving an indication that said user has started watching said one
program and presenting said one program to the user from its beginning
while said one program is being buffered, whereby the user can watch

said one program from its beginning to its end.

34 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 32 further comprising receiving a command from the user to start the presentation of said one program from its beginning.

35 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11 wherein said timeslot is selected from a grid defining programs over an extended time period on different channels.

36 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 35 wherein said grid is a weekly grid and said timeslot defines a program distributed at a particular day, time and channel.

37 (NEW). The method of claim 32 wherein said step buffering said program is performed using a personal video recorder.

38 (NEW). The method of claim 37 wherein said monitoring is performed by said personal video recorder.

39 (NEW). The method of claim 37 wherein said program is buffered for a predetermined duration.

40 (NEW). The method of   claim 39 wherein said program

has a program duration and said predetermined duration is shorter than said program duration.

41(NEW). The method of claim 32 further comprising providing a signal on said program presentation apparatus to said user in response to the determination that the user started watching the program to indicate to the user that the user can select to watch said program from its beginning.

42 (NEW). The method of claim 41 further comprising receiving a command from the user in response to said signal and starting to present said program on said program presentation apparatus in response to said command.

43 (NEW). In a system for distributing content from a content provider to a plurality of viewers, each viewer having a content presentation device, a method comprising:

transmitting a program having a program duration to a plurality of content presentation devices;

determining by said system if a particular viewer is starting to watch said program after the program has started; and

if a particular viewer starts   watching said program late,

presenting said program to said viewer from its beginning.

44 (NEW). The method of claim 43 wherein the system further comprises a recording device selectively recording programs further comprising monitoring the presentation device associated with the particular user when the respective recording device has not been set to record said program, said monitoring being performed to detect when said particular viewer starts watching the program.

45 (NEW). The method of claim 43 wherein said program is presented to the viewer from its beginning automatically.

46 (NEW). The method of claim 43 further comprising detecting that a watcher has activated the respective program presentation device, further comprising presenting the user with the choice of continuing to watch the program in program and rewinding the program to its beginning.